

Mayor  
MICHEL A. PAVIA



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**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Sen. Eric Coleman – Co Chair  
Rep. Gerry Fox – Co Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2500  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 29, 2012

Dear Sen. Coleman and Rep. Fox.

As Mayor of the City of Stamford, I am writing to you today to express my opposition to Bill 445, AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE RECREATIONAL USE OF LAND. This act seeks to amend the definition of "Land" under the Recreational Land Use Act with respect to land owned by a municipality. Specifically, S.B. 445 would remove boardwalks, public beaches, paved sidewalks, and spectator areas and structures for spectator seating from the definition of municipal "Lands" that are currently protected under the Statute. The result would limit (or eliminate) municipal protection under the Recreational Liability Statutes for the above listed areas, whose definitions could be broadly interpreted.

I know you are aware the existing Statute (Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 52-557f – 52-557i) protects a municipality from liability for injuries suffered on lands made available, free of charge, for recreational use. The pending Bill would change that and would appear to trigger the standards of care and liability otherwise outlined in 52-557n ("Liability of political subdivision and its employees, officers and agents. Should this bill pass it has the potential to substantially increase any municipality's liability arising from providing its citizens use of public space for recreational uses. At the extreme it could cause municipalities to close down or severely restrict this key recreational and quality of life currently enjoyed.

Additionally it is the immunity from liability that gives assurance to private sector developers and property owners when required to grant public access for recreational uses on waterfront properties subject to review under the Connecticut Coastal Management Act.

I respectfully urge your opposition to this bill for the reasons highlighted above.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Pavia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Michael A. Pavia  
Mayor of Stamford